



WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Statement on Reduced Recreational Services in National Forest

Madison...State Senator Tom Tiffany (R-Hazelhurst), Representative Jeff Mursau (R-Crivitz) and Representative Rob Swearingen (R-Rhineland) released the following statement regarding the United States Forest Service's (USFS) announcement of reduced recreational services on the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest (CNNF):

"We understand the federal government, citing increasing operational costs and decreasing number of visitors, is having trouble managing the forest lands it owns. Wisconsin stands ready to assist the federal government in keeping the recreational facilities open and services available if they will allow it.

"Tourism and forestry remain cornerstone industries and major economic drivers for our state. On top of reduced recreational services, the USFS continues to fall short of its annual timber harvest goals on the CNNF. If the federal government will allow Wisconsin to manage the CNNF in its entirety, it can be done without closing any facilities or reducing recreational opportunities. The allowable sale quantity (ASQ) of timber can be met and most importantly, Wisconsin can manage the CNNF with no federal dollars."

The Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest covers more than 1.5 million acres in Northern Wisconsin. According to the USFS, roughly 11 percent of the Forest's developed recreation areas will have either reduced services and/or eliminated services this year.

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